AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Every calling is great when greatly pursued.—Oliver Wendell Holmes.

WHOLE NO. 1248 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 1935 | FRANK MORRISON, Secretary | VOL. 25, NO. 11

Editorials

Majority Rule in Collective Bargaining

The Wagner Labor Relations Bill provides that "representatives designated or selected for the purpose of collective bargaining by the majority of the employes in a unit appropriate for such purposes shall be the exclusive representatives of all the employes in such unit for the purposes of collective bargaining in respect to rates of pay, wages, hours of employment, or other conditions of employment."

Replying to criticism of this provision made by anti-union employers Senator Wagner in his argument for the bill before the Senate Committee on Education and Labor pointed out that the majority rule principle is found in a number of laws already enacted by Congress. He stated that it was applied during the World War by the War Labor Board, that it is now the practice of the Railway Labor Board and is followed in business and public affairs.

Explaining why the majority principle is written unequivocally into his bill, Senator Wagner said:

"All collective bargaining is simply a means to an end. That end is not the mere exchange of pleasantries between employer and employes, but rather the making of agreements which will stabilize employment conditions and set fair working standards.

"Students of industrial relations are in almost unanimous accord that it is practically impossible to apply two or more sets of agreements to one unit of workers at the same time, or to apply the terms of one agreement to only a portion of the workers in a single unit.

"For these reasons, collective bargaining can be really effective only when workers are sufficiently solidified in their interests to make one agreement covering all. This is possible only by means of majority rule.

"Freedom for the individual worker does not mean that he should be free from the orderly processes of determining questions which prevail in business and in public affairs. That kind of freedom is the trade name for exploitation."

All reasoning persons will be compelled to admit the indisputable logic and validity of Senator Wagner's statement.

Holding Company Propaganda

President Roosevelt's message to Congress urging the enactment of legislation curbing public utility holding companies and criticising propaganda organized by company executives to defeat the legislation was regarded as favorably by Congress that 50,000 copies of the message were ordered printed in order that Senators and Representatives might send it to their constituents. The President said:

"I have been watching with great interest the fight being waged against public utility holding company legislation. I have watched the use of investors' money to make the investor believe that the efforts of the Government to protect him are designed to defraud him. I have seen much of the propaganda prepared against such legislation—even down to mimeograph sheets of instructions for propaganda to exploit the most far-fetched and fallacious fears."

Asserting that he was as "unimpressed" by this propaganda as he was by the "the similar effort to stir up the country against the securities exchange bill last spring," the President claimed the chain letter, circular and verbal pressure on members of Congress so thoroughly misrepresented the purpose of the proposed law that the people should "understand once and for all the actual facts of the case." He continued:

"Such a measure will not destroy legitimate business or wholesome and productive investment. It will not destroy a penny of actual value of those operating properties which holding companies now control and which holding company securities represent insofar as they have any values. On the contrary, it will surround the necessary reorganization of the holding company with safeguards which will in fact protect the investor."

The President charged that the devices inaugurated by many utility executives "have given tyrannical power and exclusive opportunity to a favored few" and made "once traditionally conservative investments depend solely upon the favor of a very few, who through devices such as holding companies have taken for themselves unwarranted economic power." He declared that the holding company legislation was in the interest of the real investor as well as of the rate payer.

Observers predict that the message will greatly facilitate the speedy enactment of the law, which the Administration claims is designed to remove recognized evils of holding company organizations.

HOME OWNERSHIP STRESSED BY GREEN

High Wages Policy Is Vital Element in Enabling the Masses To Free Themselves from Rent Lords, A. F. of L. Head Says.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—Emphatic endorsement of efforts of the government to stimulate ownership of homes by persons of small means and low incomes was given by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, in an address here over the network of the National Broadcasting Company. He declared that home ownership is essential to permanent democracy and that the high wage standards demanded by the American Federation of Labor are necessary in order to enable the workers and other persons of small incomes to become home owners.

"I well remember when I worked in the mines, living in a modest little home with a garden plot," Mr. Green said. "It was the first little home I ever set up as my very own. Though I did not own it, the garden gave me a feeling of ownership. I liked to work out in the garden, till the soil and watch the products of my garden grow. I supplemented in subsistence homesteading and augmented my modest wages which I earned in the mines by the fruits and vegetables from my garden.

Importance of Home Ownership

"Each real American home serves as an instrumentality through which the family reaches its roots down deep into the soil of our national life and thus adds to its vigor and richness.

"Because home means so much to everyone, I welcome whatever our national government can do to promote better homes for persons of small incomes and to make home ownership practicable and safe for America's wage earners. Homes are a great conservative force to wage earners. Each month a fixed amount from income goes to pay for the home and bit by bit ownership is established.

"But, time and again I have seen sickness, an accident, or loss of work wipe out the whole investment. Some way must be found to protect these small equities of wage earners so that they can liquidate their ownership even as the larger investors are able to do.

"My own experience convinces me there is no more important problem our government can consider than home ownership for the average citizen.

Family Life Is National Asset

"Home and family life are the chief assets of the nation. In fact, the American home is the cornerstone of the Republic. In proportion as we create opportunities for home ownership and the elevation of family life to many homes, materialistic, cultural and artistic plane we create assurances for the preservation and perpetuation of our free institutions. Democracy with all its imperfections, will be safe and secure as against on the American continent if we make America a land of home owners and not guaranteed an annual income sufficient to maintain life and living commensurate with the accepted standards of modern civilization and American life.

High Wages Essential

"The American Federation of Labor is endeavoring to achieve this purpose. Its fight for higher standards of living, annual wages, with annual incomes sufficient to maintain a breadwinner's family in decency and comfort is in the interest of American home-owners and is the last analysis, in the interest of our national life and our free, democratic institutions."

Dallas Garment Manufacturers Refuse Federal Conciliation

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Dallas, Tex.—The Dallas Garment Manufacturers as a body refused to accept the services of J. C. Howard, U. S. Commissioner of Conciliation, to bring about an amicable settlement of the controversy with the workers, according to Max Goldstein of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. Declaring that he believed some of the smaller manufacturers might be willing to deal directly with the union, Mr. Perlstein said that separate agreements would be signed with all of them. The agreements provide for increased production in return for increased wages.

"The International Union is behind the Dallas locals and is demanding a six months' strik; if necessary," Mr. Perlstein said, adding: "However, we are making every possible effort to obtain a fair settlement without resorting to a long drawn-out struggle."

Violating 8-Hour Law Brings Heavy Fine for Mine Operator

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Golden, Colo.—On complaint of the Colorado State Industrial Commission, Edward Sherman, operator of the Littleton Valley Coal Mine in Jefferson County, was found guilty in a Golden court for violation of the eight-hour law for miners. The court fined him $250 and costs, according to evidence presented by the Industrial Commission, the operator was working his employes more than 8 hours underground in a poorly ventilated mine and paying them less than $4 a day.

After the conviction of Eggergius the state mine inspector ordered the mine closed as a menace to health. One year ago two miners employed in the mine died as a result of the black damp.

LOAN SHARK LEGISLATION

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Little Rock, Ark.—The Legislative Committee representing the Arkansas State Federation of Labor and the Railway Brotherhoods are supporting a bill regulating loan sharks which is before the State Legislature. It is claimed that there are instances on record in which 600 per cent interest on money was originally charged and that one debt of $44 ran up to over $1,500 in nine and one-half years. The bill provides that all usurious rates are charged, the borrower may bring suit against the broker and recover the overcharge as well as lawyers' fees.

Labor Tabloids

Permanent Unemployment.—Dr. Charles A. Cunningham, assistant professor of economics of the NRA, in a talk before the San Diego Federated Women and Labor Council said: "We must get over the idea that this is an emergency and reconcile ourselves to the fact that we have three or four million permanently unemployed."

Municipal Ownership.—The Central Labor Union of Kansas City, Mo., referred to its legislative committee a resolution by the Garment Workers' Union approving the construction of a municipal gas plant at the expiration of the present franchise in 1936. It was estimated that the project, financed by revenue funds, would employ 1,500 men for a year and a half.

Brewery Workers Barred.—The Central Labor Council of Portland, Ore., barred delegates from the Brewery Workers' Union on the ground that the union refused to abide by the jurisdiction decision of the last two conventions of the American Federation of Labor and persisted in boycotting breweries in the Northwest Breweries Association which maintains agreements with other organizations.

Picketing Menaced.—A bill introduced in the Arizona Legislature for the alleged purpose of curbing Communism was denounced by the leaders of the Phoenix as menacing the right to picket peacefully, prohibiting attempts to persuade workers to join a labor union.

Unfair Theater.—Hardy's Theater of Fresno, Calif., was placed on the "unfair list" by the Fresno Labor Council and Motion Picture Operators' Union.

Wage Scale Organizing.—A concentrative work is under way to reorganize the Kansas State Federation of Labor. A convention will soon be called to revise the constitution and elect officers.

Unfair Ruling Reversed.—The National Labor Relations Board decided that Henry Fielding, a member of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters' Local Union of Grand Rapids, Mich., was discharged by the Strouse Creamery for union activities and ordered his reinstatement with back pay. The company complied with the board's order.

One-Man Street Cars.—The board of supervisors of San Francisco, Calif., defeated a proposal to repeal the ordinance banning one-man street cars which has been in operation for 17 years.

Union Vaudeville.—The Paramount Moving Picture Theater of St. Paul, Minn., has inaugurated a vaudeville show to supplement its film features which, it says, is "unfair." The membership of the St. Paul Musicians' Association furnish the music and all of the other employes, including stage hands, are union members.

Texas Teachers Organize.—The school teachers of Dallas, Tex., organized in a local of the American Federation of Teachers. This is the first teachers' local in the state.

Garnishee Law Void.—The Supreme Court of Indiana declared the state garnishee law unconstitutional. It was ruled that it is unfair for creditors to collect debts from wage earners.

Union Theater.—The Motion Picture Operators' Union, Memphis, Tennessee, announced that three more theaters had agreed to use union operators.

Contract Conference.—Leaded labor of Tennessee announced its opposition to a bill in the State Legislature providing for the use of convicts from the Petros coal mines and lease them to private companies, corporations or individuals in competition with free labor.

Union Directory Advertisers.—One hundred and twelve business concerns of Springfield, Ill., contributed to the advertising page of the directory of unions and union labels published by the Illinois Tradesman. The businesses covered run from auto dealers, bakers and beer distributors, to trunks, wall paper and women's apparel.

Full Trade Crews.—Bills providing for full crews for the operation of trains were defied in the legislatures of Colorado and Indiana. The measures were supported by the organized labor movement and opposed by lobbyists for the railroad owners.

Furuseth Spends 81st Birthday in Hospital

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—Andrew Furuseth, president of the Seamen's Union of America, observed his eighty-first birthday on March 12 in Sibley Hospital here, where he is undergoing treatment for stomach trouble. He received flowers, letters and telegrams from labor officials, members of Congress and many other admirers.

Mr. Furuseth is the oldest national trade union executive in the United States and has headed the Seamen's Union since 1908 and is president of American Federation of Labor conventions since 1932. He was prominent in the San Francisco dock strike last year, participating in directing the seamen's part of it from a hospital bed, suffering from the same trouble which sent him to Sibley Hospital.

Returning to Washington as legislative representative of the Seamen's Union before Congress convened in January, Mr. Furuseth has taken an active part ever since then in looking after the seamen's interests in current legislation, including the Safety of Life at Sea Treaty and the King-Schulte Bill providing for the deportation of certain alien seamen.

Mr. Furuseth's many friends hope for his speedy recovery and that he may return to his office in the American Federation of Labor Building here and to the companionship of fellow workers. He has been a familiar figure for over 40 years.

Toledo FERA Employes Strike Against Cut in Work and Pay

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Toledo, Ohio.—About 700 employes on relief work here struck against an order of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration curtailing work to two days a week instead of the former three-day week. Wages under the new order are fixed be, it was stated, about $7.50 a week with some variation determined by the number of dependents. The strike included bricklayers, masons, building laborers, painters, carpenters, and other skilled craftsmen. They claimed they could not subsist on the new work and wage schedule when wear and tear was taken into consideration and declared they are worse off than they would be on a relief dole.

WAGES MUST ADVANCE AS PROFITS INCREASE

A. F. of L. Business Survey Holds That Larger Buying Power in the Hands of the Masses Is Major Element in Business Recovery.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—Larger purchasing power for wage earners through increased wages must be stressed as the basic foundation for business recovery is the current issue of the Monthly Survey of Business of the American Federation of Labor.

"To raise workers' living standards progressively as industry recovers and profits increase is without exception the most important economic problem which faces us today," the Survey said.

Profit Motive Explained

"That this problem is fundamental in our economic growth is clearly illustrated in a study just published by Brookings Institution, based on careful analysis of a century of economic experience in this and other countries," the Survey continued.

The Institution points out the following facts: 'The motivating force in all economic activity, under a system of private initiative, is the wants and demands of the people.' These wants, of course, are the basis of production as the people have purchasing power. The basis of this purchasing power is the production of consumption goods—such as food, clothing, housing, passenger automobiles.

"To supply these consumption goods, the 'capital goods' are assembled—tools, farm and industrial machinery, railroads, electric power lines, etc.—but primarily to produce goods does not take place unless expansion of consumption is also occurring. The demand for plant and equipment is derived from the demand for consumption goods' and the moment this demand declines, the demand for new capital goods declines also in vastly greater proportion.

Reduced Buying Power Started Depression

"Production of capital goods is at the top of the economic pyramid, and a slight shrinkage at the base (of the pyramid (a shrinkage in consuming power) very nearly eliminates the top.'

"This explains the way a shortage of workers' buying power can start a depression and then spread like wild fire throws millions out of work in the heavy' or capital goods industries.

"The Brookings Institution finds also that changes in business conditions, such as the start of recovery from depression, do not take place concurrently in business decline, appear to begin with forces which affect the production of consumers' goods.

"Thus an increase in workers' buying power may start a recovery, or a shortage may cause a turn from prosperity to depression.

Rich Use Surplus for Speculation

"In the period of prosperity from 1922 to 1929, the Institution finds, vast increases in the national income, in dividends, created huge surplus funds in the hands of corporations and persons with high incomes. These surpluses rose from eight or nine billion dollars in 1922-24 to 15 billion in 1929. Much of they were used not for productive purposes but for speculation on the stock market, and contributed to the growth of the financial orgy of 1928-29 which ended in the worst depression in history.

"The study concludes that America's present economic problem differs greatly from that in the 1920's. Then there was a scarcity of funds for business enterprise; today there is a surplus which tends to produce financial maladjustments. 'The primary need is a larger flow of funds through consumptive channels.'"

SUGAR COMPANY STRIKE BRINGS OUT VIGILANTES

Gov. Merriam Refuses Soldiers, But Increases Highway Patrolmen in Longshoremen's Controversy.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Crockett, Calif.—The strike of the longshoremen and warehousemen employed by the California & Hawaiian Sugar Co. here broke out anew with violence and bloodshed when it charged that the company had broken the agreement which was negotiated to end the controversy.

Sheriff Miller said Gov. Frank Merriam had refused to call out the militia, the company requested "to protect life and property," but had promised to reinforce the highway patrol with 100 additional men. It was said that 704 employes were hotted up in the plant.

Vigilantes without the semblance of legal authority patrolled the streets armed with clubs. Reginald Bennett, a group of men claimed to be stevedores from San Francisco, forcibly compelling them to take a train and ordered them to leave town.

The trouble originally arose when the Weighers, Warehousemen and Cereal Workers' Union, affiliated with the International Longshoremen's Union, attempted to organize the 800 warehousemen employed in the plant. The shop organization it was charged that the company locked out the 1,500 employes. Union leaders claimed that 12 men were discharged for union activities, the company declared that it had taken the men refused to return to work.

The lockout, which lasted 72 hours, was settled when the men returned to work following an agreement between representatives of the company and company officials under which the employes were permitted to hold an election to determine whether they wished to form unions in accordance with Section 7-A of the National Recovery Act.

Crockett, with a population of 5,800, is entirely dependent on the sugar refinery, which is the only big industry in the world. It is an illustration of a company-industry town being at the mercy of a single corporation.

Burlington Types Celebrate Union's Fiftieth Anniversary

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Burlington, Iowa.—Members of Burlington Typographical Union No. 263 celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the union. The speakers included Mayor Randolph, secretary-treasurer of the International Typographical Union; J. C. Lewis, president of the Iowa State Federation of Labor, and Thomas Downie, editor of the Labor News of Galesburg, Ill. Mr. Randolph reviewed the 45 years of the International Union as an example of what can be accomplished by unselfish ideas and discussed the value of unionism to society in general.

Wagner Visions New Labor Risings Unless the Rights of the Workers Under Section 7-A Are Made Real

He Tells Senate Committee Employers Have Shattered Recovery Act Labor Provisions—Labor Board Prevented from Enforcing Its Rulings.

New Bill Clarifies Section 7-A and Extends Its Scope—Outlaws Company Unions—Bans Unfair Labor Practices—Gives Labor Board Complete Power to Enforce the Law.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—Convincing arguments for the speedy enactment of the Wagner Labor Relations Bill as a method of coping with increasing industrial discontent were presented to the Senate Committee on Education and Labor by Senator Wagner himself, the author of the measure, at the opening of the hearings.

Scope of the Act

In explaining the bill Senator Wagner pointed out that its main provisions reenact Section 7-A of the Recovery Act with certain changes and make it of general application to all industries affecting commerce, rather than merely to codified industries; outlaw the company-dominated union; establish the principle of majority rule; center the protection of all collective bargaining rights in a permanent and independent National Labor Relations Board, with power of subpoena and investigation, and to issue cease and desist orders against violations enforceable in the federal courts; and provide that the activities of the various industrial boards in handling cases of the 7-A type be transferred to the supreme national board entrusted with final administrative interpretation of the law.

Section 7-A Shattered

Declaring that the opposition of certain employers to Section 7-A had been so successful that its guarantees of the workers were completely shattered, Mr. Wagner said this action "is unjust to employers who have seen what was handed to them as a new charter being treated as a meaningless gesture." He added that it was also "unfair to the vast majority of employers who are anxious and willing to obey the law, and who are faced with the destructive competition of those who seek to gain advantage by disobeying it."

Board Decisions Disobeyed

Stressing the necessity of clarifying Section 7-A which he said had been broken down, Mr. Wagner asserted that the National Labor Relations Board and other industrial boards had been drastically blocked in their attempts to secure adequate enforcement of that section. He said that of 68 decisions made by the National Labor Board, 43 had been disobeyed. He had sent on to the Recovery Administration for removal of the Blue Eagle and only one of 19 cases sent to the Department of Justice had been taken into court.

Elections Blocked

He also pointed out that the authority of the National Labor Board to hold elections to determine representatives for collective bargaining had been so belligerently fought by anti-labor employers that even the right of workers to cast their ballots in secret ballot elections had been held. He emphasized the fact that although Congress in enacting Resolution No. 44 last summer guaranteed the right to hold elections for collective bargaining representatives by employes of the iron and steel industry, the big corporations in the industry were so unified in opposing the plan that the National Steel Labor Board had been unable to hold even one of the elections it had recommended.

Multiplicity of Enforcing Agencies

In addition to the National Labor Board there were 13 other boards, Mr. Wagner said, designated to handle cases arising under Section 7-A. Moreover there were 103 codes of fair practice which provided for the establishment of industrial boards. He declared that confusion was the only result of having a hundred boards authorized to interpret and administer the same law, the multiplicity of enforcing bodies was completely remedied by his bill, which set up the National Labor Relations Board as the guarantee and independent body with exclusive enforcement powers to handle every case coming under its jurisdiction.

Remedy for Industrial Discontent

Pointing out that the rising tide of industrial discontent was repeatedly demonstrated by reliable statistics which showed that of the "812,127 workers who were involved in the strike during 1933 over 87 per cent walked out during the second half of the year," and that in 1934 the number rose to 1,277,344." Mr. Wagner added:

"Our alternatives are clear. If we allow Section 7-A to dwindle, we shall be confronted by intermittent periods of peace at the price of economic liberty, dangerous industrial warfare, and class depressions.

"On the other hand, if we clarify that law, and bolster it by adequate enforcement machinery, we shall do much toward round the program for a balanced economic system founded upon fair dealing and common sense business.

"The latter course is chartered by the National Labor Relations Bill."

Right to Organize Affirmed

Mr. Wagner asserted that his bill reaffirmed the right of workers to organize in labor organizations, bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing, and carry on the concerted activities normally connected with trade union work.

Unfair Practices Prohibited

The unfair practices section, he said, prohibited employers from interfering with the right of employes to organize and bargain collectively, from dominating or interfering with the formation or administration of labor organizations and from using discrimination to either encourage or discourage membership in a labor organization. The fourth prohibition was designed to outlaw the company-dominated union. The National Labor Relations Board, which the bill sets up, was given exclusive jurisdiction to prevent employers from applying the inhibited practises.

Elections Guaranteed

To implement the machinery for collective bargaining which has been broken down in the administration of Section 7-A, the bill empowers the board to by anti-labor employers, Mr. Wagner stated that his bill gave the National Labor Relations Board the power to hold elections for the choice of collective bargaining representatives with the courts barred from interfering.

Majority Rule Is Not New

He also pointed out that the majority rule in collective bargaining procedure, provided by his bill, was not new, being already incorporated in President Roosevelt's executive order creating the National Labor Board and envisioned in Public Resolution No. 44, the majority of which the present National Labor Relations Board was established.

In concluding his argument, Mr. Wagner said:

Will Benefit Everyone

"I am sure that this review of the proposed legislation and its purposes will make people wonder why it has caused such opposition in some quarters.

"It has been branded radical by some and ultra-conservative by others, but every one of its principles has been sanctioned by a long line of acts of Congress.

"It has been called inopportune and hasty. But is it not time to act upon the ominous industrial disturbances of last summer, when blood ran freely in the streets and martial law was in the offing?

"It is not time to note that during the last half of 1934 and the first month of 1935 over almost three-fourths of a million workers were sent back to their jobs or kept from being fired by the National Labor Relations Board and its regional agencies?

"I have hope we will apply the healing balm of an upright, impartial and peaceful law to industry and labor, and thus will benefit employers, workers, and the country at large."

DEATH TAKES UNION MEN

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Galesburg, Ill.—The trades union movement in Galesburg lost two of its valuable members in the death of Albert Ahlstrand and Herman Johnson.

Mr. Ahlstrand was a charter member of the Carpenters' Union in Monmouth and for 29 years was a representative of that union on the management board of the Galesburg Labor News. He was 56 years of age and was active up to the time of his death.

Mr. Johnson was president of the Galesburg Central Union here for many years and bore the distinction of being the only colored man employed by the Illinois Light and Power Corporation in this part of the state. It is reported that officials of the company never attempted to interfere with his union rights.

Union Legislator Urges Tax On Labor-Displacing Machines

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Denver, Colo.—A federal or state tax on machines which employers install to reduce as a substitute for the labor of working men and women was urged by Frank McDonald of Pueblo, a veteran member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers and a member of the State Legislature, in a talk before the Denver Trades and Labor Assembly.

Mr. McDonald stressed the fact that, although the introduction of the dial system in the telephone industry displaced thousands of women workers, there has been no reduction in telephone rates. He also said there was no reduction in street railway fares although the one-man street cars were introduced and no reduction in the price of the thousands of other commodities in the production of which employers have installed machinery to take the place of labor.

TEXAS SOLONS CONSIDER 30 BILLS FOR WORKERS

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Austin, Tex.—Thirty measures affecting the interests of the workers in Texas have been introduced during the present session of the State Legislature. One of them—the child labor amendment to the Federal Constitution—was defeated in the Senate. The other 29 are now under consideration either by the Senate or the House of Representatives.

These measures, sponsored by the organized labor movement, include bills to cover the following subjects: Amending the workmen's compensation act so that state employes may receive benefits; prohibiting state courts from enforcing writs of injunction; prohibiting and regulating the use of injunctions in labor disputes; prohibiting the employment of aliens on public works of the United States on public works; minimum wages for women and children; limiting freight trains to 70 cars and passengers trains to 14 coaches; requiring labels on all ready-made clothing; regulating barbering; amending state eight-hour law so as to apply to all public and private works; prohibiting employers from contracting with employes for a certain wage and then compelling the employe to give part of it back to the employer; requiring employers of laborers to be installed in conformity to fixed standards by competent mechanics licensed by the State Labor Department; requiring employers to pay twice each month and within 10 days of the end of the work period.

NRA BILL WINS IN INDIANA

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Indianapolis, Ind.—The Indiana Senate passed the state NRA bill, which had already been approved by the House of Representatives. The measure is designed to be administered in cooperation with the federal NRA statute.

AGREEMENT-BREAKING BOSSES ARE FOUGHT BY ORGANIZED LABOR

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Minneapolis, Minn.—A militant fight against employers who break agreements with trade unions is being waged by organized labor in Minneapolis. The Huntzinger Garage and the Builders Sideboard Company are charged with practicing this device to lower labor standards.

It is claimed the garage concern failed to carry out the terms of a strike settlement which prescribed that the firm should reemploy four workers who had participated in a strike. The company refused to keep this agreement. As a result it was placed on labor's "unfair" list and is being militantly picketed. Union officials assert that employes of the company are now compelled to work 54 hours a week when months to the old-age pension law to insure more adequate pensions, and unemployment insurance.

Expressing the fear that the entire legislative program will be scrapped by the legislature, President Nonon and Secretary Gross of the State Federation of Labor mobilized emissaries of the state to urge their legislators to support these measures. The letter by Mr. Nonon and Mr. Gross said: "The same old forces, interested only in protection of property rights and a reactionary government, are attempting to adjourn the present session of the legislature without consideration of platform pledges and social and economic needs of the people of the state."

COLORADO LEGISLATORS BLOCK LABOR MEASURES

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The difficulty experienced by trade unions in securing the enactment of labor laws by members of state legislatures unless they are pledged to support such measures before election is illustrated by the present legislature of Colorado.

In that state organized labor includes in its legislative program changes in the workmen's compensation law to make the payments more equitable, adequate inspection of coal mines, an eight-hour day without reduction in pay for certain employes of the State Hospital at Pueblo and the Industrial School at Golden, a state recovery act, amendments to the old-age pension law to insure more adequate pensions, and unemployment insurance.

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COAL COMPANIES CAUSE CHAOS IN RELIEF WORK

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Uniontown, Pa.—Chaotic conditions in relief work among mine workers in Fayette County were directly attributed to officials of coal companies by state investigators sent here from the Harrisburg office of the Emergency Relief Administration. It was charged that the companies take a large portion of the contents of the miners' envelope each pay day to liquidate various back bills.

"One of the prime causes for the confusion," the report said, "is that men who live in company houses have their rent deducted by the company and rent is not figured as income in making up a budget deficiency. The men who do not live in company houses do not have their rents deducted and the money they receive is a greater amount than the money received by the other men, giving them a lower relief check. In this case the man is still pay the rent. The situation is not at all fair."

The investigators pointed out that the policy of the coal companies in deducting store bills and rentals from the miners' pay envelope requires the state relief administration and the taxpayers to support the miners while these back debts to the operators are being and in effect amounts to a state subsidy to the operators.

LABOR MEASURES BEFORE MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE

By A. F. of L. News Service.

St. Paul, Minn.—The Minnesota State Federation of Labor is sponsoring a number of important social welfare bills now before the legislature. They include propose the 30-hour week; labeling of prison-made goods sold in the open market and coming into Minnesota from other states; licensing of steamfitters and supervision and inspection of steamfitting; codifying wage laws; state workmen's compensation fund, and unemployment insurance.

Employers, manufacturers and retailers' associations favored the prison-made goods bill.

Secretary George W. Lawson of the State Federation of Labor said that one of the difficulties in securing action on labor legislation is the lack of quorums at committee meetings. He pointed out that when a quorum does not appear it generally means a week's delay in considering the measures before the committees.